

HELPED TO DRILL FIRST OIL WELL

"Sam" Smith Only Survivor of
Titusville Adventure.

Titusville, Pa. — There's nothing startling about his name—it's plain "Sam" Smith—but quite the contrary is his distinction. He is the one man still living who had a part in drilling the world's first oil well.

In 1859 Edwin L. Drake, an oil field clerk, sought a man to test his theory that petroleum could be obtained in large quantities by drilling into the earth, and William A. Smith, father of "Sam," of Titusville, Pa., a drifter of oil wells, was selected to try the experiment.

"Sam" was a lad of sixteen years at the time. He was on the scene, near where the first oil bubbled forth. Describing the historic achievement, Smith said the spot for locating the original well was selected because at that point a pool of surface petroleum had collected for years. The Indians had dug up the mud from the puddle to paint for facial and bodily decorations. Later the white man had dipped it to lubricate the machinery in nearby sawmills.

"In striking the first oil well, the machinery was operated by a steam engine, hauled overland by horses from a distant railway station," Smith said. "After the drill had been going a week and had reached a depth of 60 feet, the output of the well was 14 barrels a day. At first the product brought \$1 a gallon.

Drake, a visionary man with little conception of the value of money, died in poverty without ever having relied on his great contribution. He is buried here, where a huge memorial, the contribution of the late Henry H. Rogers of the Standard Oil company, marks the grave of the discoverer of oil and of that of his wife.

Doctor Braves Ice In Sled to Aid Woman

New York—Driving his sled across Great South Bay at 2:30 o'clock in the morning to reach a patient has been lifting friends for Dr. John W. Bennett of Patchogue.

The wife of Albert Jones, second in command of the Redport station coast guard, was taken dangerously ill at night. First aid methods brought no relief. A telephone call to Quogue, 35 miles down the shore, was relayed to Patchogue. Doctor Bennett was notified.

The guardsmen suggested they would come for him in a boat if he would make the trip across seven miles of rough water. Ascertaining Mrs. Jones' condition, Doctor Bennett decided no such time would be lost this way.

Summoning a nurse, the physician got into his sled and started out. Across the water they could see fares, sent up at intervals by the coast guard. The seven-mile run was made in less than 15 minutes.

Examining the patient, Doctor Bennett ordered she be taken to a hospital for an operation. The wife was bundled into blankets and taken to Patchogue. Her condition is still serious.

Traffic Hurries Even Solos in Capital

Washington.—The deliberate life in modern Washington is confined almost alone to the senate chamber. Outside of the capital building the city "struts" as the members of the nation's deliberative body emerge onto the streets they must look sharply to escape the crush of traffic which seems to have overtaken even the once wide and comfortable avenues.

To hurry things along 30 miles an hour now is prescribed at the least limit on some avenues where congested statesmen once railed at the recklessness of bicycle "scoundrels" when drawing aristocratic equipages.

It is no novelty to see the coat tails of a cabinet official flying in the wind as he attempts to make a perilous street crossing, and secret service men who guard President Coolidge must be alert when he takes his customary stroll.

Measures Snow on Far Hill With Telescope

Vernalis, Calif.—Observing the depth of snow on a mountain 11 miles away with a telescope and thereby saving a considerable hike, has been arranged by Col. John R. White, superintendent of Sequoia national park.

Valley farmers kept asking how the snow was piling up in the mountains because it is their next year's water and irrigation supply. The Sequoia National Park has a two-day trip to Alta peak to measure the snow. This summer he placed a series of cross-arms at known distances from the ground on the peak.

Now he trains a 6-inch telescope from the Alder creek headquarters on the cross-arms and reads the depth of snow on Alta peak.

SEE HOPE IN WAR ON WHITE PLAGUE

Scientists Are Interested in
Vaccine Treatment.

Washington.—Despite the fact that there are half a million deaths from tuberculosis as there were 20 years ago, the white plague still remains one of the world's greatest disease problems. The omnipresent bacillus of tuberculosis prevails with the greatest facility through the whole animal kingdom, yet the disease it produces would be the most curable of all ailments if only man could find the secret of his own natural immunity.

Medical science has established that practically every one in the more densely populated parts of the world, at some time in his life, becomes infected with tuberculosis, but the proportion that actually die is extremely small. What constitutes this mysterious immunity that man has built up during centuries of civilization is a problem that engages the best minds in medical research.

Believe He's Found Preventive.

Can this natural immunity that enables the bulk of the population to survive infection be supplied by some artificial means? To produce an attenuated strain of bacteria that would confer the power to resist disease, but whose teeth for producing violent symptoms are fastened on a goal sought in many diseases and attained in but few. However, Dr. Albert Calmette of the Pasteur Institute in Paris believes that he has attained such a preventive for tuberculosis in his vaccine BCG.

BCG is a kind of half-starved strain of tubercle bacilli that have been grown for many years in test tubes on the unappetizing diet of beef bile. Somewhere in the succeeding generations grown in this state of semistarvation the bacilli have theoretically lost their disease-producing power and yet retain a certain amount of their capacity to call forth antibodies when injected into the body.

After a long series of animal experiments the French scientist and his associates felt that they had sufficient ground for trying out their new vaccine on babies born in homes in the Paris slums where tuberculosis in members of the family made their lives a living hell. Inevitably, records were kept of the inoculated babies and of others who lived under the same bad conditions but were not inoculated. Twenty-five per cent of the unvaccinated control babies, according to the Calmette data, succumbed to the disease within 12 months, whereas the vaccinated ones were all apparently unharmed by the treatment and failed to develop tuberculosis for a year and sometimes longer.

United States Authorities Cautious.

In spite of these impressive results American authorities feel exceedingly cautious about this new way of acquiring immunity to the white plague. The introduction of living tuberculosis germs, no matter how weakened, into the human system is fraught with danger, they maintain. From long years of experience and observation experts in the United States public health service say there is no telling what different animals react very differently to the same dose of the same type of vaccine.

From such observations it is obvious that there are many factors in this work that are not yet completely known or understood. Consequently there will probably have to be much more study of the conditions before very many authorities feel that artificial immunity can safely replace the imperfect sort that man has somehow evolved for himself naturally.

Use Rare Writ to Oust Detroit Man From Home

Detroit, Mich.—In the Hamtramck city hall is a crew of men ready to move a two-family flat owned by Jacob Pitch, fifty-three years old, off its foundations and pave a street over the site, while in the city treasurer's office is a sum of money which Pitch can claim as compensation for being ousted.

And whether Pitch claims the money or not, the men will probably issue forth soon with Sheriff George A. Walters or his deputies at their head to move Pitch and his brother, who is the other tenant of the flat, out of the premises.

A year ago Hamtramck started condemnation proceedings to take Pitch's flat and the house of twelve others, to permit the continuation of Lupton avenue from Trowbridge to Chalfin avenues. All except Pitch accepted the awards of the condemnation jury.

Then Judge Miller made use of a rare power a Circuit court judge may exercise and issued a writ of assistance to Hamtramck ordering Sheriff Walters to oust Pitch from the flat.

Island May Use Its Hot Springs to Heat Capital

Copenhagen.—The Icelandic premier, Jon Thorlaksson, has suggested that the Reykjavik town council that the capital use the hot springs in the Irons for heating the central sections of the city. If the project is agreed to, the springs will give the same heat as 20,000 tons of fuel.

CARLSBAD CAVE IS FULL OF THRILLS

Has Been Explored to the
1,000-Foot Level.

El Paso, Texas.—How deep is the vast Carlsbad cave? It has been explored to a depth of 1,000 feet below the surface entrance and at that level are several dark passages which lead to still lower depths. It is one of the marvels of the world, according to Carl Livingston of Carlsbad, N. M., well-known archeologist, who has devoted much time to exploring the cavern.

In a talk before the Archeological society of El Paso, Mr. Livingston said that some conception of the tremendous size of the cavern is borne out by the fact that in the portion already explored the entire population of New Mexico and west Texas could be accommodated. In what is called the big room, three miles from the entrance and on the 750-foot level, the population of El Paso and Juarez could be seated, Mr. Livingston said.

"In the jump-off place in this room," said Mr. Livingston, "the 18-story building could be placed and the roof would not touch the ceiling of the cavern."

Go Down 1,000 Feet.

"There is no telling how deep the cavern is. Explorers have gone to the 1,000-foot level and found there places where the entrance would lead to greater depths. "The Carlsbad cavern is the largest in the world, is indestructible. Yet have to see it many times before you can appreciate its great immensity and beauty."

The area of the cavern is unknown. It extends south into Texas, and it is proposed to excavate an entrance to it in this state. The present entrance is not Carlsbad.

He described "Devil's Den," an abyss 150 feet deep. Visitors were not allowed on the balcony and precipice, he said, because of the danger in falling off.

"Visitors," he said, "are conducted only to the safe places."

After the "Devil's Den," next in interest is the "King's Palace," in which is a block of stone weighing many tons.

Reckless Sled Fall.

"There is seldom any falling of sleds," Mr. Livingston said. "In fact, perhaps, every century. Time means nothing to a cavern."

"Well within the King's Palace" is a circular room 50 times larger than the Queen's room.

The Queen's room adjoins the palace, and above this is a vast chamber which has not yet been explored.

"The Papoose Room," next to the Queen's room," said Mr. Livingston, "is a room of the formation of the Queen's room, but it is much smaller and is used for the storage of the Queen's room."

The big room is three blocks wide and three-quarters of a mile long. The trail through it is over a mile and a half in length. There are hundreds of small rooms and each one is different from the other.

Stomach for Study

State College, Pa.—Data from workers of the agricultural experiment station of Pennsylvania State college have performed a harmless and simple operation on Pensate Homestead Jesse, a pure-bred two-year-old Holstein heifer, to study what goes on inside her stomach.

Jesse suffered no inconvenience from the operation which put a door in her stomach for special vitamins to be carried on. In other words, Jesse will continue to be a contented cow.

Experiments conducted by Dr. S. I. Bechdel of the station have shown that a cow fed a ration deficient in vitamin B will produce milk containing this dietary substance, absence of which in the human diet causes beriberi, a nutritional disease resulting in paralysis.

"What is the source of the vitamin B," the scientists queried. "Can it be that a cow has the power to manufacture vitamin B?" So the college asked Dr. R. S. Amadon to make an opening in Jesse's stomach. After the application of local anesthetics the rumen was sewed to the skin of the opening so the two will grow together. When this has occurred, in about a week, a convenient little door will be provided. This will permit the scientist to reach in and get part of Jesse's dinner.

Offers to Build Flyer's Chapel Near Arlington

Washington.—Permission to erect on Fort Myer military reservation, just opposite the main gate of Arlington national cemetery, a memorial chapel for the Fort Myer garrison and to be dedicated to Americans who fought with the Lafayette division in France, has been asked of the War department by Frederick H. Prince, Boston banker and president of the Union Stock Yards and Junction railways of Chicago.

Mr. Prince lost a son in the World war. He was killed in action while a member of the famous French-American legion.

The memorial itself is to cost \$200,000 and Mr. Prince plans to put an additional \$100,000 into the landscape gardening work about the chapel. Ralph Adams Cram of Boston has been selected as architect.

SON SERVED IN WAR, DAD GOT PENSION

Strange Case Comes to Light
in Nebraska.

Auburn, Neb.—The story of a man who not only served in place of his father after the latter had volunteered while drunk to be a soldier in the Civil war but also was deprived of his father's name to fight here in the case of James Perry Whitlow.

Whitlow, who is past sixty and in dire need, declares that in 1863 Peter Whitlow, his father, while drunk at Nebraska City, near here, enlisted in the Union army. After returning home and sobering up he realized that a man with nine children, all under eighteen, had no right to go to war and leave his family to the charity of neighbors. But if he failed to fulfill his enlistment he would be considered a deserter and would suffer a desertion's punishment.

His son, Perry, who was then seventeen, solved the problem. He would go in his father's stead. So Perry reported for duty and became a soldier in the Second Nebraska cavalry under the name of his father, Peter Whitlow. The commanding officer was none the wiser and the matter was not discovered.

Between 1863 and 1865 Perry saw service on the western frontier, fighting Indians. After the war he returned to Auburn and took up the life of a farmer on a homestead which his father had obtained.

His discharge papers, made out in his father's name, were delivered in time for a pension to be made in his father's name and was granted. Perry, having done the service, wanted the pension, but the father insisted on having it. So for 21 years the father received and cashed the pension checks.

At feeling, engendered by the pension matter, caused Perry to leave home. His father forbade him ever to return. And when the paternal will was probated in 1905, after the death of the father, there was no request to the estranged son.

Perry Whitlow then tried to have the wrong righted by the government. His discharge papers, made out in his father's name, were delivered in time for a pension to be made in his father's name and was granted.

As the years wore on Whitlow became unable to work. Today he is in poverty. Upon the urging of his friends, he has told his story to Congressman John L. Moorhead of the district. The congressman says that he will try to get through congress at this session a bill granting to Perry Whitlow the pension which he has been denied these many years.

Domestic Insects Urged to War Upon Parasites

Philadelphia.—Possible domestication of insects which prey upon harmful bugs and parasites was suggested by Dr. L. O. Howard, chief of the bureau of entomology, Department of Agriculture. Doctor Howard was one of the speakers before the entomological section of the American association for the Advancement of Science, which met here last week.

"It may be too much to expect," he said, "that we shall ever be able to handle these creatures as quadrupeds, but much greater if he did not have these winged and crawling helpers."

Howard urged that every important parasite on injurious insects and every predatory insect that feeds on injurious insects should be studied here from all parts of the world to aid the farmer, whose worries, he said, would be much greater if he did not have these winged and crawling helpers.

Executions for Fraud Increase in Soviet Russia

Moscow.—Executions for embezzlement, fraud and speculation in the conduct of government owned banks and commercial enterprises seem to be increasingly frequent, according to reports in the Soviet newspapers. The severe penalty of death, reserved under the law for crimes judged dangerous to the security of the state, have been reported from small towns and communities. None have been reported recently in the larger cities such as Moscow, Leningrad or Odessa.

Dogs Run Alaska's "Pumpmobile" Railway

Nome, Alaska.—Sheer novelty is the claim to fame of the Pumpmobile railway between Nome and Shelton, for the trains are pulled by husky dogs. The railway crew is composed of the passengers. Operation of trains consists solely in sliding a whip, except in cases where two trains meet between villages. In that contingency the one with the higher load is lifted from the track while the other passes. Then the "engine" is hitched on again and the journey continues.

The railway has 87 miles of narrow-gauge track. It was built just after the war and is now being used to connect the Koryuk district with the coast and was bought by the Territory three years ago. It is operated by the Alaska road commission for public use.

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LOOK! Move up the date of your label.

ROCKS NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Nash as their week-end guest their son, Hermon, of Lynchburg.

Miss Cassie Baldwin was quite surprised Saturday night when a party of young folks gathered at her home to pass away a few hours with her. Games were played, and a real good time was enjoyed by all.

Messrs. Robert and Ned Almond, of Lynchburg, visited Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Almond during January.

Miss Laura Inge spent the week-end with Miss Myrtle Dinkins.

The children around here have been and are having "Chicken Pox."

Eight of the "live wires," young folk, had a fine time back riding one evening last week, and most of the riding being done while "collecting" cake which was a work of culinary art was baked by Mrs. Elizabeth Goodman Smith, of Ohio, grand-daughter, of Mr. and Mrs. Spencer.

Among the guests present were: Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Howerton, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Coleman, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Dickerson, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Chilton, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Spencer, of Lynchburg, and Mrs. E. B. Ferguson, Mr. and Mrs. I. B. Wheeler, Mr. and Mrs. O. S. Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. D. Whitaker, S. W. Alvis, S. P. Coleman, E. P. Carson, A. W. Jones, M. W. Wootley, H. B. Marshall, R. W. Smith, Mr. A. M. Goodman, R. H. Bates, Miss Esther Coleman, Mittie Goodman, Grace Caldwell, Miss Chilton, Ella Jones, Evelyn Cullop, Catherine Cullop, Lena Nell, Monk and Lucile Bates, Frances Smith, Lucile Marshall, Eula Mae Burke, Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Cheatham, of Greve, Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Sweeney, Mrs. G. M. Bays, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Goodman, of Ohio, Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Spencer, of Petersburg.

Sam Bingham is doing fine in Lynchburg, at work. Keep it up, boy.

Mr. W. H. S. Barlow has returned home from Kentucky on account of his illness. Hope he will soon be well again.

The Mitchell's got stuck in mud on way to Piney Mountain. Howard Marsh, of Oak Hill, has gone to work in Lynchburg, at the "Piggly Wiggly."

Sorry Mr. K. V. Barlow was frightened on a "row" with Little Lucendo last week, but is much better at this writing.

County Agent Notes

Mr. F. A. Motz, Horticulturist, from Blacksburg, will be in the county next Monday and Tuesday, the 14th and 15th. We will hold a Pruning Demonstration at the following places: Mr. Allen O'Brien at 10:30; Mr. Litten Harvey's at 2:30 Monday the 14th; and on Tuesday morning at L. H. Pears, 2 miles from Pamplin at 10 a. m.

Those interested in pruning their orchards will do well to attend one of these meetings.

Dr. John R. Hutchesson, Director of the Extension Division of Virginia, will address the farmers and business men of Appomattox next Saturday, Feb. 12, at 12 p. m. His subject is "Agricultural Situation," of course touching on the tobacco.

Dr. Hutchesson is the best informed man in the state on agricultural conditions. Don't fail to come. Remember the date and hour.

NOTICE

We the undersigned having qualified as executor and executrix do hereby request any having claims against T. B. Moore, Jr., present same. Those who owe T. B. Moore, Jr., please come forward and settle at once.

Jno. C. Moore, Jr., Executor.
Alice Irene Moore, Executrix.

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THE TIMES-VIRGINIAN

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